



I am Erin Perpetua, President of School Nutrition Association of Connecticut (SNACT), which is the professional organization representing Connecticut's school nutrition professionals. I am also the Food Service Director for Norwich Public Schools, as well as a resident of Norwich, Connecticut. I am testifying on behalf of SNACT on **SB 1046 An Act Concerning the Reduction of Food Waste in Schools**

School Nutrition Professionals are very aware of the issue of food waste and have taken many steps over the years to reduce it. Measures have included educating students to prevent food waste and utilizing share tables and donations to reduce the amount of food wasted. We prefer to address food waste at the source by educating students and staff on the nutritional value of all components of school meals. Students are required by federal regulations to take meal components (fruit and vegetables) and we want students to consume these items, not dispose of them.

While we support efforts to combat food waste, this bill, requiring schools to establish composting measures places a new burden on school districts that will be both costly and extremely difficult to implement and manage. We want to focus on measures that encourage students to consume food rather than waste it!

Thank you,
Erin Perpetua
SNACT 2022-2023 President